

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the consultation and coordination activities the BLM has carried out with interested agencies, organizations, and individuals while preparing this draft document. Public involvement is a vital component in preparing this Resource Management Plan for the Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the public's involvement in the decisionmaking process as well as allowing for full environmental disclosure. Guidance for implementing public involvement is found at Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1610.2, thereby ensuring that federal agencies make a diligent effort to involve the public in preparing NEPA documents.

Consultation and coordination have occurred in a variety of ways throughout the planning process. Formal and informal efforts have been made to involve the public, other federal agencies, American Indian tribal groups, state and local governments.

Formal public involvement for this RMP/EIS is occurring in two phases.

- Public scoping before NEPA analysis to obtain public input on issues and proposed alternatives, and
- Public review and comment on the Draft RMP/EIS, which includes analyzing possible

environmental impacts and identifying the preferred alternative.

CONSULTATION REGARDING WILDLIFE

The BLM must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 before beginning an agency project that may affect any federally listed, special-status plant or wildlife species or its habitat. This proposed plan is considered to be a major federal action, so the BLM has initiated informal consultation. Letters documenting this activity are on file at the BLM Albuquerque District, Rio Puerco Field Office.

CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

BLM planning regulations require that RMPs be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans, policies and procedures of other federal agencies, American Indian tribes, state and local governments. To ensure such consistency, the BLM has sent letters to all the groups and agencies listed in Table 5-1. These same entities have received copies of this document for their comment.

No inconsistencies are known between any of the plan alternatives and officially approved or adopted resource-related plans of any group or agency mentioned in Table 5-1. The BLM will continue to consult and coordinate during the public comment period.

TABLE 5-1

**GROUPS & AGENCIES PROVIDED
A COPY OF THE DRAFT RMP/EIS OR NOTIFIED OF ITS AVAILABILITY**

American Indian Groups

Hopi Tribe
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Navajo Nation
Pueblo de Cochiti
Pueblo of Acoma
Pueblo of Isleta
Pueblo of Jemez
Pueblo of Laguna
Pueblo of Nambe
Pueblo of Pojoaque
Pueblo of Sandia
Pueblo of San Felipe
Pueblo of San Ildefonso
Pueblo of Santa Ana
Pueblo of Santa Clara
Pueblo of Santo Domingo
Pueblo of Tesuque
Pueblo of Zia
Pueblo of Zuni

Businesses

Bohannon Houston Inc.
Century 21 Allied
First Security Bank
Grant Co. Farm and Livestock
Hindi Livestock Co.
Huning LTD Partnership
Hunter Corp. Contractor
Star Group
The Morning Star Institute
The WYSS Foundation
Western Environmental Law Center
Wild Birds Unlimited

Interest Groups

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
All-Indian Pueblo Council

American Indian Chamber of Commerce of NM
Amigos Bravos
Animal Protection Institute of America
Archaeological Conservancy
Audubon Society of Central NM
Center for Environmental Research
Coalition of AZ-NM Counties
Cochiti Community Development Corp.
College of Santa Fe
Commission of Wilderness Supporters
Concerned Citizens Del Norte
Conserv America
Cottonwood Gulch Foundation
Enterprise Foundation
Forest Guardians
Friends of Taos Valley
Lindrith Recreation Assoc. Inc.
Mother Whiteside Library
National Audubon Society
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Wildlife Federation
Native Plant Society
Natural Resources Defense Council
NM Four Wheelers
NM Garden Clubs Inc.
NM Land Use Alliance
NM Mountain Club
NM Nature Conservancy
NM Northern Chapter Wilderness Watch
NM Public Interest Research Group
NM Range Improvement Task Force
NM Republicans for Environmental Protection
NM Trials Association
NM Trout
NM Volunteers for the Outdoors
NM Wilderness Alliance
NM Wilderness Coalition
NM Wilderness Study Committee

TABLE 5-1, concluded

Interest Groups, concl'd

NM Wildlife Federation
Northern NM Stockman's Association
Pentecostal Church of God
Plateau Sciences Society
Public Lands Action Network
Sandia Mtn. Wildlife Association
Santa Fe National Forest Watch
Sierra Club
Sierra Club, Albuquerque Chapter
Sierra Club, Santa Fe Group
SW Center For Biological Diversity
SW Off Road Enterprises
SW Research and Information Center
Taos Environmental Association
The Wilderness Society
Univ. of NM Getaway Adventures
Valley Improvement Association

Federal Government Agencies

Army Corps of Engineers
Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Albuquerque Area Office
 Eastern Navajo Agency
 Southern Pueblo Agency
Bureau of Reclamation
Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development
Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
Dept. of Interior, Office of Environmental
 Project Review
Fish and Wildlife Service
Forest Service
 Cibola National Forest
 Coyote Ranger District
 Cuba Ranger District
 Jemez Ranger District
 Lincoln National Forest
 Mt. Taylor Ranger District
 Regional Forester, Southwest Region
 Santa Fe National Forest
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Park Service
 Bandelier Nat'l Monument

Director, Intermountain Region
El Malpais Nat'l Monument
El Morro Nat'l Monument

State Government Agencies

Governor's Office
Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources
Bureau of Mines
Dept. of Agriculture
Dept. of Energy
Dept. of Finance & Administration
Dept. of Game & Fish
Dept. of Tourism
Dept. of Transportation
Environment Dept.
Interstate Stream Commission
Laboratory of Anthropology
NM Health & Environment
NM Museum of Natural History & Science
State Game Commission
State Historic Preservation Office
State Land Office
University of NM, Dept. of Earth & Planetary
 Sciences

Local Government Agencies

Bernalillo County
Cibola County
City of Albuquerque
City of Grants
City of Rio Rancho
Rio Arriba County
Sandoval County
Santa Fe County
Village of Cochiti Lake
Village of Corrales

U.S. Congress

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Heather Wilson

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation in this RMP is a dynamic process that continues throughout plan development and beyond. Scoping for this RMP/EIS began with a meeting of BLM staff from a variety of professional specialties (an Interdisciplinary Planning Team) to discuss resource needs, program requirements and management concerns for the area being considered. Early scoping discussions for this RMP included tribal leaders of the Pueblo de Cochiti. (The BLM has a Cooperative Management Agreement for the monument with the pueblo.)

Throughout the scoping process, the BLM has used various means to inform the public about the RMP/EIS and solicit input to be considered during plan development. The ongoing public involvement process for this effort includes the following.

- Notice of Intent (NOI)—Published in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 69, No. 14; Thursday, January 22, 2004; pp. 3167-69). The notice announced the agency's intent to prepare an RMP/EIS, and included information on the public scoping meetings, newsletter, availability of information on the BLM's Website, points of contact, area description, and preliminary issues and criteria to guide plan preparation.
- Newsletter (February 4, 2004)—Mailed to about 230 individuals, organizations, and government officials who had expressed interest in the BLM's planning efforts. The newsletter invited public participation, provided information similar to that contained in the NOI, and supplied a self-addressed, postage-paid form for submitting written comments. It also suggested that comments, while important throughout the planning process, would be most helpful in the scoping process if received by March 12, 2004.
- Press Release (February 19, 2004)—Issued to 13 media points, announcing the dates, times, and locations of the public scoping meetings.
- Website (made available on January 22, 2004)—This feature provides information similar to that contained in the NOI and newsletter. The site is linked to another that offers information about the monument itself.
- Public Scoping Meetings—Held in communities near the monument on February 24th (Peña Blanca), 25th (Rio Rancho), and 26th (Santa Fe), 2004, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Although no formal presentations were made nor notes kept, attendees were encouraged to write down their comments for the record. Each open house featured maps, resource information, comment forms, copies of the newsletter and Presidential Proclamation, and members of the BLM's Interdisciplinary Planning Team to provide information and answer questions. The BLM invited a representative of the Pueblo de Cochiti to attend these meetings. In addition to BLM representatives, seven individuals registered their attendance at the three meetings. One of those individuals, representing "Conserv America," attended all three meetings.
- Next Formal Opportunity for Public Input—Will occur when the Draft RMP/EIS is published and posted on the Website for comment. Upon conclusion of the 90-day public comment period, all comments received will be reviewed and considered and the Draft RMP/EIS revised. A proposed Final RMP/EIS will then be published, with the document's availability announced in the *Federal Register*. A 30-day protest period will follow, and any individual may submit his or her protest to the BLM. Upon closure of the 30-day public protest period, the BLM will evaluate and resolve any protests. After protests are resolved, the BLM New Mexico State Director will publish the approved Final RMP and Record of Decision (ROD) and announce the availability in the *Federal Register*.

During the public scoping period (ending March 12, 2004), the BLM received 30 submissions from interested individuals or groups. Most of the submissions contained constructive

comments, including ideas for the planning team to consider in finalizing the planning criteria, and in formulating alternative ways of managing the monument to resolve resource use conflicts and define management decisions.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

To provide for more consistent, effective and collaborative management of the federal and pueblo lands within and adjacent to the area known as Tent Rocks, the U.S. Department of the Interior/BLM and the Pueblo de Cochiti have entered into an Inter-Governmental Cooperative Agreement. Under this agreement, the BLM seeks the pueblo's participation and involvement in public land use planning by personal invitation to agency activities and meetings. The pueblo has agreed to identify and provide appropriate staff for planning and implementing the initiatives developed under the agreement.

The agency held a pre-planning meeting with officials from the pueblo on May 12, 2003, to talk about the planning process, steps, and preliminary issues to be addressed in the plan. The agency held another meeting regarding traditional cultural properties in August 2003. Those in attendance at this meeting included pueblo officials, council members, BLM managers, the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System Manager, and a Cultural Resource Specialist.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION & COORDINATION

The BLM mailed certified, return-receipt form letters to nine local pueblos and tribes. A separate, more detailed letter was sent to the Governor of the Pueblo de Cochiti. Through these letters, the agency asked these groups to submit (1) any concerns about traditional

cultural practices or other issues that might be affected by this land use plan, (2) information on how they would like to be involved in the planning process, and (3) names of other individuals or organizations that should be notified or consulted concerning this plan. With each of these 10 letters were enclosed a copy of the NOI, a map of the Planning Area, and a brief description of the preliminary issues to be considered in the plan.

The BLM received two responses to this request, one from the Hopi Tribe and the other from the Jicarilla Apache Nation. The Jicarillas did not request further involvement in the plan, but wish to be kept informed under the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (which applies to the disposition of American Indian cultural and human remains). The Hopi Tribe expressed concern about the moral, spiritual and financial responsibility placed on local pueblos for the disposition of ancestral remains and cultural items discovered on ancestral lands as a result of this federal undertaking. The tribe also supports the road closure and travel restrictions proposed for the monument to protect natural and cultural resources. The Hopis defer consultation to the Pueblos of Cochiti, Jemez, and Santo Domingo for their identification of places of cultural importance. Additionally, the Hopi Tribe supports the rights of the local pueblo tribes to access and use areas under Executive Order 13007 and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

PREPARERS OF THE PLAN

An interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists from the BLM Albuquerque District, Rio Puerco Field Office has prepared this plan. Table 5-2 lists the names and qualifications of the team members.

TABLE 5-2**PREPARERS OF THE PLAN**

Name	Assignment	Education	Related Experience ^a
John Bristol	Team Lead; Visual Resources, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Wilderness	BS—Landscape Architecture	BLM/USFS—34 years
Roger Cumpian	Vegetation	BS—Texas A&I	BLM—27 years
John Gilmore	Geology, Minerals, Paleontology	BS—Geology	BLM/Industry—26 years
Kent Hamilton	Planning, NEPA Coordination, Social & Economic Conditions	BS—Agricultural Economics	BLM/BIA—44 years
Pamela Herrera- Olivas	Riparian Resources	BS—Biology, MS—Environmental Science	BLM—8 years
Andy Iskra	Wildlife; Threatened, Endangered & Special- Status Species; Riparian Resources	BS—Wildlife Biology	BLM/USFS/NMFS— 19 years
Debby Lucero	Lands & Realty, Access & Transportation	BS—Environmental Science	BLM/USFS/NPS— 19 years
David Mattern	Soil, Water, Air	BS—Forest Management, MS—Watershed Hydrology	BLM/USFS—19 years
Brett O’Haver	Vegetation, Rangeland Management	BS—Wildlife Biology	BLM/NRCS—25 years
Danny Randall	Recreation	Natural Resource experience	BLM—25 years
Todd Richards	Woodlands; Fire Management	BS—Education	BLM/USFS—12 years
John Roney	Cultural Resources	BA—Sociology/ Anthropology, MA—Anthropology	BLM—28 years
Kathy Walter	Recreation, National Landscape Conservation System Manager	BUS—Anthropology, MA—Recreation	BLM/DOD/NPS/HCRC— 29 years
M’Lee Beazley	Desktop Publishing, Printing, Photography	Certification—Graphic Design	BLM—20 years
Dawn Chavez	GIS Mapping & Analysis	BA—Geography	BLM—2 years
Greg Homan	GIS Mapping & Analysis	BA—Geography	BLM/Other—18 years
Gretchen Obenauf	Assistant Writer/Editor	MA, BA—Archeology	BLM/BIA/NPS— 29 years
Sarah W. Spurrier	Writing & Editing	BA—Psychology, MBA	BLM/Industry—26 years

Note: ^a BIA—Bureau of Indian Affairs, BLM—Bureau of Land Management, DOD—Department of Defense, HCRC—Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service, NMFS—New Mexico Forestry Service, NPS—National Park Service, NRCS—Natural Resources Conservation Service, USFS—U.S. Forest Service.